

PRESS RELEASE

STÄDEL MUSEUM APPOINTS HEAD OF PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION

**KRISTINA LEMKE ASSUMES NEWLY CREATED POSITION AS HEAD OF
PHOTOGRAPHY FROM MODERNISM TO THE PRESENT WITH EFFECT
FROM 1 JUNE 2021**

Frankfurt am Main, 27 May 2021. The Städel Museum has appointed Kristina Lemke to head up its Collection of Photography from Modernism to the Present. The announcement marks the establishment of a new position at the Städel Museum in Frankfurt, one that will oversee the research and presentation of the museum's photographic holdings, which currently comprise over 5,000 images. Art historian Kristina Lemke has just completed her PhD and has been working as a research associate at the museum since 2018. "New Ways of Seeing: The Photography of the 1920s and '30s", on view from 30 June, will be her first exhibition curated for the museum. Laying the groundwork for the exhibition, a symposium on the photography of the interwar years was held at the museum last year.

The earliest works in the Städel's Photography Collection date from the mid-1900s, when the medium itself was in its nascency. In 2008, the Städel Museum received important photographic works presented on permanent loan from the DZ Bank Collection, which included an outstanding suite of photographs dating primarily from the 1960s to the present day. However, the key turning point in the recent development of the Städel's Photography Collection came in 2011 and 2013, with the acquisitions of the collections of Uta and Wilfried Wiegand and Annette and Rudolf Kicken. Thanks to that, the Städel now belongs to the best photography collections in Germany. Further acquisitions and donations have followed since then.

Welcoming the appointment, Philipp Demandt, director of the Städel Museum, stated: "Kristina Lemke is a specialist in photography. She has spent the last several years studying and cataloguing the Städel Museum's photographic holdings and developing curatorial strategies on how to make them accessible to both the public and to academic scholarship. The Städel is home to an excellent collection, featuring more than 5,000 photographs that date from the medium's early period to the current day.

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I am delighted that Kristina Lemke can now devote her undivided attention to photography at the Städel Museum in her position as head of the collection. The appointment means that our Photography Collection now gains curatorial independence, raising its profile as a result.”

Speaking as the first head of the collection, Kristina Lemke revealed some of her plans: “Photography opens up new ways of seeing and that goes for all visual media in the museum, not just photography itself. My task will be to continue and deepen the research on the photographic holdings. I want to get the Städel’s audience excited about photography. My first exhibition, ‘New Ways of Seeing’ presents essential aspects of the artistic engagement with photography and its use in various contexts in the entire spectrum of their motifs. What I personally find fascinating is tracing continuities and echoes between historical photographs and the works of contemporary artists in their handling of the intrinsic characteristics of the photographic medium.”

Kristina Lemke (b. 1987) studied art history and German studies at the University of Marburg and Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. She recently completed her doctorate in Marburg with a dissertation on the work of Frankfurt photographer Paul Wolff. Her monograph, co-authored with Manfred Heiting and entitled *Dr. Paul Wolff & Alfred Tritschler: The Printed Images 1906–2019*, was released by Steidl in April of this year. Lemke has published numerous essays, including on Lee Miller, Gerda Taro, and Martha Rosler. In 2020 she held a lectureship at the University of Zurich on photography in museum collections. As a staffer at the Städel Museum, she has devoted herself in recent years to primary research as well as fully cataloguing the holdings of historical photographs, while also taking care of new acquisitions and donations. As a research assistant, Lemke previously worked on ways of integrating photographic works into the collection display of modern art at the Städel. Her most recent curatorial activities at the museum have involved a small show on Frankfurt photographer Carl Friedrich Mylius and, marking the death of collector and benefactor Wilfried Wiegand, installing the Photography Cabinet within the permanent exhibition on Modernist painting.

Venue: Städel Museum, Schaumainkai 63, 60596 Frankfurt am Main

Information: www.staedelmuseum.de

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